

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 117-3

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on July 11, 2022, by the President of the United States:

Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (Treaty Document No. 117-3).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (the "Protocols"). The Protocols were signed in Brussels on July 5, 2022, on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is an overview of the Protocols by the Department of State. Full ratification of the Protocols will allow Finland and Sweden to become Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which outlines NATO's Open Door policy, is part of the doctrinal foundation of the Alliance. It states that Allies may, by unanimous consent, invite any other European State in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede. As further explained in the reports on the accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO, transmitted to the Congress on May 19 and July 1, 2022, in light of section 3(2)(E) of the Resolution of Advice and Consent to Ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic of April 30, 1998, Finland and Sweden more than meet these qualifications. They will be net contributors to the Alliance, in both capabilities and resources, and they share critically important values with the United States. Finland's and Sweden's accession will help further United States priorities within NATO.

I ask the Senate to continue working with my Administration in advancing a strong and free Europe by providing its prompt advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols. We are encouraging all Allies to act expeditiously in their own ratification processes as well, given current global consider-

ations. My Administration stands ready to brief and assist you in your deliberations.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 11, 2022.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the John F. Kennedy Space Center—KSC—for celebrating its 60th anniversary, which we observed on July 1, 2022. While the complex was not named after President Kennedy until November 29, 1963, it was on July 1 six decades ago that the launch operations center on Merritt Island, FL, was created.

Since the Apollo program in 1968, every U.S. crewed orbital spaceflight has launched from the Kennedy Space Center property, making it the unambiguous leader in American spaceflight. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NASA—has carried out launch operations for its Apollo, Skylab, and space shuttle programs from Launch Complex 39, managed by KSC's personnel. For the past 60 years, millions of Americans have visited the area to watch astronauts slip the face of Earth and explore the final frontier.

After the retirement of the Space Shuttle program in 2011, the Kennedy Space Center transformed from a government-focused launch base to a multi-user spaceport. Today, it provides a home to more than 90 private-sector partners and nearly 250 partnership agreements in support of different vehicles, systems, and launch providers, enabling a new era of space exploration. The Kennedy Space Center further contributes to our Nation's space program through the Exploration Ground Systems, as well as the Commercial Crew, Exploration Research and Technology, and Launch Services Programs.

As NASA prepares for the launch of Artemis I at KSC, the center remains a cornerstone of Florida's economy by employing thousands of civil servants and government contractors throughout the State's Space Coast.

I express my thanks and deepest gratitude to the many hard-working men and women at the Kennedy Space Center as they continue to advance American space exploration further into the 21st century.

RECOGNIZING ST. JOSEPH HEALTHCARE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, St. Joseph Healthcare of Bangor, ME, was founded in 1947 by the Felician Sisters with a mission to support the wellness and healing of a patient's mind, body, and spirit. On this 75th anniversary, I congratulate this outstanding institution for carrying out that mission with expertise and compassion.

St. Joseph is a 112-bed acute care community hospital that brings together primary care providers and specialists focused on delivering personalized medicine in more than 30 departments. It is a member of Covenant Health, an innovative, Catholic regional health delivery network that is a leader in values-based, not-for-profit health and elder care.

The St. Joseph story began in 1855 in Warsaw, Poland, when Blessed Angela founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix, an order dedicated to serving the poor, the sick, and the disabled. The Felician Sisters were founded with a particular focus on serving the Polish countryside. St. Joseph Healthcare continues that tradition by its efforts to ensure healthcare services for rural Maine.

St. Joseph's contributions as a healthcare provider are enormous but only part of its mission. The hospital's facilities have been applied to such needs as providing laundry and food services to the area's homeless shelters. A food pantry, an elementary school backpack program, and a community vegetable exchange stand help alleviate food insecurity. St. Joseph's Closet provides patients who are being discharged with needed clothing. The Blessing Bag program provides food, winter clothing, and basic personal hygiene items to homeless emergency room patients.

Countless other acts of kindness complement the St. Joseph mission of meeting the spiritual and religious needs of patients regardless of their beliefs and traditions or spirituality. The 16th century Capuchin friar canonized St. Felix was known in his time as "the saint of the streets of Rome" for his daily journeys through the city dispensing food, medicine, and comfort to the poor, the sick, and the troubled. The dedicated staff and leadership of St. Joseph Healthcare continue that legacy through the streets of Bangor and the country roads of Maine, and I thank them for their blessed service.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONOR THE EARTH HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AND POWWOW

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Honor the Earth Homecoming Celebration and Powwow. The story of Honor the Earth begins with a small group of Lac Courte Oreilles who wanted a better future for their tribe and their people.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe—Ojibwe: Odaawaa-zaaga'iganing—is one of six federally recognized bands of the large Ojibwe Nation that originally occupied the upper eastern woodlands area of the North American continent. The Treaty of 1854 established the LCO reservation.

In 1971, the LCO community, and other people from neighboring bands and Tribes took over Winter Dam in protest of flooding lands, broken treaties, and desecration of LCO land, people, and traditional livelihood. Eddie Benton-Benaim, supported by the American Indian Movement, helped lead the 5-day effort to take over the dam. This effort led to the renegotiation of the dam license which helped the tribe recover several hundred acres of land, compensation for damages, and the development of Tribal hydro generating project.

The following year, 1972, there was a reunion of the people who had occupied the dam; they called it Honor the Earth powwow. Every year since, the Ojibwa people come together as they have always done; they celebrate with prayers, feasting, songs, dances, and honoring. The 1972 and 1973 powwows were organized as contest powwows and were sponsored by a handful of individuals and then by LCO AIM, LCO Tribal Governing Board, and the St. Paul Red School House, of which Benton was director. In 1974, grounds were broken for what would eventually become one of the largest traditional gatherings of Tribal peoples in the region.

In 1982 the first annual Miss Honor the Earth's ladies competition began at the powwow to showcase the strong and beautiful Anishinaabekwewag—Ojibwe ladies—perform a woodland dance while wearing historical deer dresses.

This year, 2022, we celebrate the 50th Honor the Earth Powwow and the 40th Miss Honor the Earth ladies competition. In so doing, the Anishinabeg, the Lac Courte Oreilles or "Ottawa Lake" Tribe continues to sustain heritage, preserve and utilize the strong Ojibwe language, honor strengths of the past, and embrace a good future. Please join me in celebrating this historically and spiritually important community.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD FERGUSON

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate to honor an important member of Her Majesty's diplomatic service, Mr. Edward Ferguson. Edward has been the latest in a long line of impressive British diplomats who have furthered the Special Relationship between the United Kingdom and United States.

Edward has served as the Minister Counsellor for Defence at British Embassy in Washington, DC. The Minister Counsellor is the senior Ministry of Defence—MOD—civil servant in the embassy. This position is responsible for aspects of the bilateral defense relationship, paying close attention to

defense strategy; security and operational policy; acquisition and trade.

Since arriving in September 2018, Edward has played a pivotal role in further strengthening the already indispensable United States-United Kingdom defense relationship. As the UK's senior policy adviser on defense relations with the United States, he was responsible for United Kingdom-United States collaboration on strategic planning, nuclear policy and programmes, trade and acquisition, and science and technology. He can point to a number of significant successes on his watch, not least the signing of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States—AUKUS—Agreement.

Prior to his service at the British Embassy Washington, Edward served as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2014 to 2018, where he created and led a new international strategy, co-launched by the British and German Foreign Ministers, that re-energised Euro-Atlantic integration after years of stagnation, while stimulating economic growth and reducing high levels of youth unemployment.

From 2011 to 2014, Edward was Head of Defence Strategy and Priorities, where he led two teams, one responsible for leading the MOD's contribution to developing the 2015 National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the other for prioritising the MOD's international defence engagement activities.

A former exhibitioner and choral scholar of Trinity College, Oxford, where he was also treasurer of the Oxford Union, Edward graduated with first class honours in classics in 2001. In 2013, he graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science with an MSc with distinction in strategy and diplomacy. He has been a member of the Royal College of Defence Studies—RCDS—strategic advisory panel, a member of the US Air Force Grand Strategy Advisory Board, and is a graduate of the PINNACLE Command and Staff course at National Defense University—NDU.

Edward has served in numerous roles within the Ministry of Defence, starting out in the Iraq Secretariat during the build-up to and subsequent execution of Operation TELIC in 2003. In 2006, he volunteered for an operational tour, serving as political advisor to a British battlegroup in Maysaan Province, Iraq—while his brother was a troop leader with the British Army in Basra. On his return, he took on responsibility for the strategic management of the United Kingdom's bilateral defence relations with the United States, Canada, and Western Europe.

From 2007 to 2009, he worked as Private Secretary to three Defence Secretaries, acting as their closest adviser on issues relating to operations in Iraq, the £6-billion defence equipment programme, science and technology, counterterrorism and counterpiracy.

In 2009, he was appointed the head of Afghanistan and Pakistan policy, responsible for advice to the National Security Council on the policy, financial, legal, parliamentary, and presentational aspects of the UK military contribution to operations in Afghanistan and on the long-term defence role and interests in Pakistan.

Edward has been a key voice engaging on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, particularly with Congress. He has been a strong proponent of increasing the breadth and depth of the bilateral relationship since his arrival at the embassy and has gained many friends and allies in a bipartisan basis throughout Capitol Hill. He has travelled far and wide throughout the heartland of the United States—and has many excellent memories of American hospitality to show for it. His presence and strong support of the Trans-Atlantic Alliance will be sorely missed, but I know he will always be a stalwart advocate for our alliance.

I know I speak for a chorus of voices in the Senate in wishing him, his wife Caroline, and their children, Henry, Tessa, and Mimi well as they transition into their next diplomatic posting.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA AND RON WETJEN

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to submit for the record a statement of commendation to Sheila and Ronald Wetjen for recently celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Sheila and Ron were married on February 5, 1972, in Dubuque, IA, and raised five children: Nicholas, Mark, Sean, Melissa, and Amanda. They also now have nine grandchildren: Grace, Cullen, Xavier, Rourke, Reece, Finnegan, Rockwell, Sophia, and Wyatt.

I would like to commend Sheila and Ron for their commitment to each other, their children, their grandchildren, their faith, and their country. Sheila and Ron represent so many of the ideals that gave rise to this great country and bind it together today—the importance of family and an enduring selflessness and faith in others that speaks to a firm commitment to the common good. We wish Sheila and Ron our congratulations all for this great achievement and wish them many more years of faithful marriage.●

REMEMBERING ERIC FEAVER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to share a few words today to honor an outstanding leader and friend of mine who recently passed away. Eric Feaver was a force in Montana and a lifelong advocate for educators across our State. He was the former president of Montana's teacher's union who devoted more than 40 years to improving the State's public school system. His commitment to Montana's working